the main cause for tensions between India and Pakistan. The delegations also effectively conveyed that the December 13 attack on India's Parliament has once again highlighted the fact that Pakistan is the real epicenter of terrorism in the region, and that its policy of sponsoring terrorism can have grave consequences for both regional and international security. The delegations also conveyed India's desire for peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan and emphasized that Pakistan must end its use of terrorism as an instrument of policy towards India, so that appropriate conditions for the resumption of a meaningful dialogue are created.

All delegations were very well received by the hosts, and held meetings at high levels of government in the countries that they visited.

Chinese Premier's Visit to India

†837. SHRIP.K.MAHESHWARI:
SHRIBRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: SHRI
KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Premier has visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the bilateral discussions held and agreements signed between the two countries; and

(c) the details of the efforts made by Government to restore normalcy on the border and to recover Indian land under Chinese occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Chinese Premier Mr. Zhu Rongji paid an official visit to India from 13—18 January, 2002. He was accompanied by his spouse Madame Lao An, Mr. Zhang Zuoji, Minister for Labour and Welfare, Mr. Shi Guangsheng, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, and other senior officials. He visited New Delhi, Mumbai. Bangalore and Agra.

Premier Zhu's visit was part of continuing high level political exchanges between the two countries. His visit helped to further promote the development of bilateral relations.

In New Delhi Premier Zhu called on the President and the Vice President

of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

India. He had wide- ranging discussions with the Prime Minister on bilateral and other issues of mutual interest. The External Affairs Minister, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha also met the Chinese Premier.

The two sides signed six MOUs/Agreements on cooperation pertaining to science and technology, outer space, tourism, phytosanitary measures and supply of hydrological data by China to India in respect of the Brahmaputra river during the flood season. These documents reflect the expansion and diversification of India-China relations.

The two Prime Ministers also agreed (i) to accelerate the process of clarification and confirmation of the alignment of the Line of Actual Control along the India-China boundary; (ii) to establish a bilateral dialogue mechanism against terrorism (modalities are being discussed between the Foreign Ministries); and (iii) that the Seventh Meeting of the Ministerial level Joint Economic Group will take place at an early date to look at ways and means of strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Prime Minister has been invited to visit China and has accepted the invitation. Dates for the visit will be settled through diplomatic channels.

Collective efforts to suppress American influence in the world

†838. SHRIJANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India, China and Russia are considering to make collective efforts in order to control the increasing influence of America in the world and whether Russia is constantly pressurising on it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would raise the issue of stopping military assistance constantly being provided by China to Pakistan and taking back the occupied land of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.